

January 22, 2009

RE: AN ACT INCLUDING COMPANION ANIMAL HOARDING IN THE OFFENSE OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS . . .

To Whom It May Concern

Since I was at the Metra in Billings, Montana when the English Shepherds were brought in from Ballantine on December 30, 2008, I feel compelled to write on their behalf.

As difficult as it may be to imagine almost 200 dogs in one place, picture them with numerous fecal mats the size of baseballs, mud mats covered with frozen ice balls and top that with fresh diarrhea head to toe, they were caked with lice that were so large you could see them from at least three to four feet away, they had broken, fractured and missing teeth, their scars from fighting and survival tactics were either fresh, scabbed over or scars that covered their bodies, skinny little bodies from severe extended starvation, newborn puppies with ulcers the size of fifty-cent pieces on their umbilical cords – raw open sores. Now picture this in the summer months – adding flies – maggots . . . **THESE CONDITIONS DID NOT HAPPEN IN A MONTH OR TWO – THIS IS YEARS OF NEGLECT/ABUSE/TORTURE.**

A professional breeder would never allow puppies to be born under old mobile homes, dilapidated buildings and old cars. Once their mother could no longer feed them there was no one to step in. Puppies approximately 2 to 2.5 months old came in so starved and dehydrated their little bellies were bloated and they threw their heads back in order to help themselves breath.

These are true signs of a hoarder, animal neglect, animal abuse and torture.

. . . PROVIDING THAT A PERSON CONVICTED OF COMPANION ANIMAL HOARDING MAY, IN ADDITION TO PENALTIES, BE REQUIRED TO UNDERGO EVALUATION AND TREATMENT WHEN CONSIDERED APPROPRIATE BY THE SENTENCING COURT . . . In a conversation I had once with the operator of the Safe Haven in Fromberg she said a few things I think should be of interest to you. She believes that she can provide better care for the dogs in her so-called safe haven because she does not approve of how people care for their pets. Never mind the fact that "her" dogs live their lives in very small kennels and never get to exercise – ever. She does not want volunteers to come and walk dogs for her because the people are not consistent and the dogs will feel let down. It is impossible for one person to care for so many animals.

These are medical/psychological problems these people have that are left untreated and create horrible living conditions for these unfortunate animals that fall into their laps.

PLEASE CONSIDER

1. Limiting the number of unsprayed or unneutered animals in any person's or business's possession.
2. Limiting the number of litters per year per dog or cat.
3. Limiting the number of dogs or cats under the age of 12 months in any person's or business's possession.

Thank you for your consideration.

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See Attachment

Attachment to letter

Dated January 22, 2009

By Tonya Davison

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS:

1. Felony charges for violators.
2. Mandatory inspections of any facilities with 10 or more dogs or cats.
3. Mandatory annual inspections for any violators of any laws regarding the care of dogs or cats by local/county/federal law enforcement agencies.

**PLEASE HELP CREATE LAWS THAT LAW ENFORCEMENT CAN USE TO SEARCH,
INVESTIGATE, ARREST AND CONVICT VIOLATORS OF ANIMAL
CRUELTY/NEGLECT/HOARDING LAWS!**